

Application No.: 10/712,717  
Office Action Dated: June 22, 2006  
Response to Office Action Dated: July 10, 2006

**In the Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) Suspension system comprising  
a flat spring member, and  
a suspension supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member,  
characterized in that  
a suspension frame serves as the suspension that supports the spring member  
by fixing the spring member at  $m$  positions with respect to the suspension frame,  
with  $m \geq 1$ ,  
said flat spring member serves as a membrane for carrying an optical  
element,  
 $k$  preload elements, with  $k \geq 1$ , being arranged with respect to the suspension  
frame and the spring member in order to locally apply a preload force to the spring  
member so as to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member,  
wherein  $m+k \geq 3$ ,  
wherein the  $k$  preload elements comprise one or more spring elements being  
attached to or being an integral part of the suspension frame, and  
wherein said flat spring member comprises three or more in plane oriented  
leg-shaped flexible members.
2. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the spring member is a  
cross-like spring member having  $n=3$  or  $n=4$  legs and wherein the suspension frame  
comprises  $k=1$  or  $k=2$  preload elements.
3. (Original) The suspension system of claim 2, wherein the cross-like spring  
member is a membrane with cut outs.
4. (Previously Presented) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein  
the suspension frame and/or the spring member comprises plastic, silicon or metal.

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5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) Positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

- a flat spring member, and
- a suspension supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member, characterized in that
- a suspension frame serves as the suspension that supports the spring member by fixing the spring member at  $m$  positions with respect to the suspension frame, with  $m \geq 1$ ,
- said flat spring member serves as a membrane for carrying an optical element,
- $k$  preload elements, with  $k \geq 1$ , being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to locally apply a preload force to the spring member so as to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member, wherein  $m+k \geq 3$ ,
- wherein the  $k$  preload elements comprise one or more spring elements being attached to or being an integral part of the suspension frame, and
- wherein said flat spring member comprises three or more in plane oriented leg-shaped flexible members.

Claims 7-17 (Canceled)